

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 230945Z JAN 76 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7847
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 0830

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS ET
SUBJECT: CHINESE ABDUCTED IN ASMARA MAY BE FREE

REF: ADDIS 14001, ASMARA 0971 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH COUNSELOR HERE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE EVENING
JAN 22 THAT TWO HONG KONG CHINESE BUSINESSMEN ABDUCTED IN
ASMARA LAST NOVEMBER MAY BE FREE. HE TELLS FOLLOWING
STORY:

A. SOMEONE IN HONG KONG, PERHAPS MEMBER OF FAMILY,
RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM PORT SUDAN IN SUDAN VERY RECENTLY
SIGNED BY TWO ABDUCTED CHINESE SAYING IN SUBSTANCE TWO MEN
HAD BEEN IN PORT SUDAN SINCE ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 15.
BRITISH ASKED SUDANESE GOVERNMENT TO CHECK AND RECEIVED
REPLY THAT BOTH MEN WERE INDEED THERE. BRITISH ARE
NONETHELESS SKEPTICAL AND WANT TO VERIFY STORY USING
OWN RESOURCES.

2. BRIT EMBASSY HERE NOT YET PREPARED DRAW CONCLUSIONS
BUT COUNSELOR IS ALREADY THEORIZING THAT IF MEN ARE INDEED
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FREE, KIDNAPPING MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN ARRANGED TO GET

CHINESE OUT OF ETHIOPIA. ACCORDING COUNSELOR, CHINESE
HAD BEEN WANTING TO LEAVE ASMARA PRESUMABLY WITH FUNDS
THEY COULD OTHERWISE NOT GET OUT OF COUNTRY. KIDNAPPING
MAY THEREFORE HAVE BEEN RESULT OF DEAL BETWEEN CHINESE AND
INSURGENTS WHEREBY INSURGENTS STAGED FAKE ABDUCTION IN
RETURN FOR SOME KIND OF PAYMENY BY CHINESE WITH UNDER-
STANING THAT INSURGENTS WOULD EVENTUALLY CONDUCT CHINESE
TO SUDAN BORDER. COUNSELOR AGREED HE HAS NO EVIDENCE TO
BACK UP THEORY AS YET OTHER THAN FACT THAT FUNDS WERE
MISSING AT TIME OF ABDUCTION, BUT WILL LET US KNOW OF ANY
DEVELOPMENT.
TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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